

# UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY

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## To whom it may concern

I am a teacher, writer and researcher in biology at the University of Cambridge (a short personal synopsis is attached) and should like to write a brief testimony concerning that portion of the work and abilities of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh on which I am competent to form a judgement.

I have visited Rajneeshpuram, Oregon, twice, firstly in the summer of 1982 and more recently a month ago, and have to record my personal and scientific amazement at the extent and the quality of the changes that have been initiated on the ranch during that period. A substantial programme of erosion control has been thoroughly thought through and then carried out, to such an effect that it was difficult to credit that my return visit was taking place only one year after my first visit, so much had already been achieved. The creeks and stream beds, even those some miles away from the city of Rajneeshpuram itself, now contain green reeds and marsh plants, dragonflies, small mammals, and a host of birdlife, where previously was dust and bare rock. The growing plants are trapping silt and allowing the development of real soils again, for these hills of Central Oregon are so very bare after decades of mismanagement and neglect. I have seen the effects of erosion and over-grazing from North Africa to Mexico, and it is a joy to witness the major ecological achievement of the process, for once, being reversed.

All of the work that has been carried out to achieve this has occurred according to Rajneesh's ideas and philosophy, taking care of

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the land, that most valuable part of any country, and always using natural materials, and has been carried out on private property without any need for government finance.

Rajneesh has an unequalled ability to bring together and hold together a multi-disciplinary team of able and educated workers (agriculturalists, botanists, ecologists, geologists, soil scientists, surveyors ...), finding the most human qualities in highly intelligent and academic men and women, and motivating each individual to produce work of higher quality and perception than each had ever thought possible. Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh is not just an idealist or a philosopher: he is a man with the immense and remarkable abilities required to turn a vision into a reality.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "S. M. Read".

Stephen M. Read, M.A., M.Phil.  
Cambridge,  
July 1983.

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## Personal academic history

Born Dartford, Kent, UK. 1-May-1957. British.

Scholar of Churchill College, Cambridge 1975-1978.

1978 B.A. Hons. (First Class) Biochemistry.

Leader of Cambridge Mexican Botanical Expedition 1978, studying the ecological status of rare cacti.

1978-present, researching for doctoral thesis in Dept. of Biochemistry, Univ. of Cambridge, on healing mechanisms in plants. 4 publications.

1979 M.Phil (Cantab).

1978-1982, tutoring undergraduate course in Biochemistry at the Univ. of Cambridge.

Summers 1979 and 1980, teaching ecology and botany in Scotland and North Africa.

1981 M.A. (Cantab).

1981-1982 Senior Tutor in Chemistry, St. Andrews Tutorial College, Cambridge.

1982-present, Development Editor, General Academic and Reference Books, Cambridge University Press. Currently preparing and editing the Cambridge Encyclopedia of Life Sciences.



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